

## **A Contrastive Analysis of Reformists and Fundamentalists Press Texts Related to USA in Nuclear Talks: A Critical Discourse Analysis Approach Based on Van Leeuwen's Socio-Semantic Model of Social Actors 2008**

**Shirin Gohari<sup>1</sup>, Ferdows Aghagolzadeh<sup>2</sup>, Hayat Ameri<sup>3</sup>**

**Received: 2017/12/1**

**Accepted: 2018/5/7**

### **Abstract**

In this article, a contrastive analysis of reformists and fundamentalists' press texts, related to nuclear talks has been performed in specific periods of time, before and after the last round of nuclear talks between Islamic Republic of Iran and the 5+1 group, especially the United States' related texts in Iran's Persian newspapers as representatives of the two opposite discourses, from the perspective of the Critical Discourse Analysis approach by using socio-semantic features of Van Leeuwen's model (2008). This study goes beyond the structural description of the discourse practices and examines the ways through which a system and structure make possible a special type of action. To do so, discursive texts of the two Iranian Persian publications belonging to two rival groups: E'temad as the representative of reformists and Keyhan, the fundamentalists' representative, have been analyzed, both qualitatively and quantitatively. In response to the research questions (How is the linguistic realization of the discursive structures performed in the given texts? And are Socio-Semantic features determined by power relations?) The result shows that the opposite ideologies dominating the minds of journalists of the two political groups are reflected in the texts and statistical analysis of the corpus also states that the Socio-Semantic features are determined by different ideologies, related to power relations. In other words, language and discourse at underlying levels are laden with ideology, power relations and dominance, and at surface levels, with discursive features and structures.

**Keywords:** Critical Discourse Analysis, Reformists, Fundamentalists, Nuclear Talks.

---

1. PhD Student, Science and Research Branch of Azad University of Tehran

2. Professor, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran. ferdows@yaho.com (Corresponding Author).

3. Assistant Professor, Center for Persian Language and Literature, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran.

## **Introduction**

In critical discourse analysis, analyzing all discourses, especially political ones, is considered. The press discourse is among the most fundamental cases in this approach. Because at least a part of press subjects, is not the social reality representative, but their language application presents realities in a distorted type to their readers. In fact, what constructs a text and makes it illegible is not just the description of linguistic codes and meanings, but they are ideological factors and people's attitudes and holders of hidden ideas behind texts which are considered as effective factors in text construction and illegibility (Aghagolzadeh, 2004). This approach holds the idea that texts are not ideologically neutral, but they highlight events from an exceptional perspective. In this approach, language and discourse are expected to have levels and layers. Language and discourse at underlying levels are laden with ideology, power relations and dominance, and at surface levels, with discursive features and structures. In this way, a CDA analyst should know discursive features and link them to the social actor's representation and perceive the hidden messages and then analyze them. The writer of this paper intends, through analyzing press texts, to show that related to text generator and political parties' attitude linking to them, the discursive structures applied in press texts are highly biased.

All linguistic constructions can have ideological load potentially, but practically those are discursive or ideological, as well as semantic meaning or illocutionary act having an implicational message and meaning or perlocutionary act in contrast to competitors' discourse in minor and major discursive context. In other words there is

not a one-to-one relation between linguistic form in text and transferable message which is more than linguistic form and abundance of message is affected by recalling and activating mental, historical, cultural and social schemata of addressees (Aghagolzadeh, 2012).

The application of discursive constructions and their changes and conversion to other forms in speech or text, leads to different sayings and perceptions, or a subject becomes covert or vague or finds a more clarity or foregrounds. The function of the discursive constructions is imaging social actors, the people who present in a discourse and are presented in different types by socio-semantic features.

This study is seeking to find answers to the question: how the ideology dominating the writers' minds of Iranian press texts had been reflected in texts, before and after the nuclear talks. Answering to this question is actually in line with relation discovering between linguistic and socio-semantic features by using Van Leeuwen's (2008) model. Actually the main goal is to study the status of the description, interpretation and clarification of press texts, through discovering the relationship between linguistic and socio-semantic features.

To do so, selections of discursive texts of the two Iranian-Persian publications belonging to two opposite groups: E'temad as the representative of the reformists and Keyhan, the fundamentalists' representative, have been analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively.

In Vandijk's terms, the goal of the critical discourse analysis mainly is not the presentation of a method, model or a special discourse theory, but fundamentally tends to study important social matters and tries to present a better description of them through

the discourse analysis. The critical analyzers, through critical perception, intend to change the situation and targets of their critique are power elites who apply social injustice and continue it and either neglect and ignore it (Vandijk, 1984:182-183).

### **Literature Review**

Van Leeuwen's socio-semantic model is of the famous ones for the critical discourse analysis. Leeuwen (2008) in a paper entitled "the representation of social actors" argues that the study of socio-semantic features of discourse gives a deeper and more comprehensive cognition of texts rather than studying linguistic features alone. On 2008 model, he completed his former model with an emphasis on act. In Iran, numerous research projects have been done, some of which are mentioned here.

Namjoo (2003), by studying lecture texts, interviews or letters of American president George Bush and those of Seyyed Mohammad Khatami about terrorism and confronting it tried to show the relation between discursive structures and ideological structures by using linguistic features like word selection, nominalization, etc. Amal Saleh (2004), by studying three samples of guidance school, high school and university Iranian English text books, and using Van Leeuwen's model has shown that in the studied texts different imaging types of social actors are performed. Women, with a limited career of house holding and urban men of middle class are depicted as norms. Ghorbani (2003), by comparing discursive features in adult and young has shown that the application of literary features in young short stories is more than that of adults and discursive features in adult stories are more than those of youth. Yarmohammadi and Seif (2004), selectively studied Persian and

English newspapers on subjects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and showed their unbiased view to the cases, but in practice none of the writings or sayings is out of appraisal or ideological load and writers, in legitimating or illegitimizing, are active from a special viewpoint. Seif (2004), by studying selected Persian and English newspapers, concludes that there is a bilateral relation between ideological and discursive structure.

Soltani (2005), using foregrounding and back grounding strategy, first studied the way the Islamic Revolution discourse and its internal transformations in general were formed and then he selected the newspaper data which were for and against reforms and focused his attention on the presidential election of Khordad 1376 (June1977) and the 2003 Islamic consultative Assembly elections and showed the process of formation of the fundamentalist's flow and its wane. Aghagolzadeh (2006) offered a model affected by the Islamic attitude. In his book, he introduced two analyses to the readers: the first he selected 10 titles of 8 newspapers about the news event of the year 2000, analyzed them and finally concluded that those media texts, specially social and political news, had ideological motivations. In another research, by selecting and analyzing 30 texts -10philosophical, 10 scientific and 10 mystical- he concluded that the effective factor in production and perception of texts were ideology, cognition and finally cognitive tools that the speaker or writer apply. Yarmohammadi (2004), in a paper by introducing Haj and Kress model (1976), and applying the discursive features (word selection, nominalization, and active vs. passive and different sentence pattern) studies the relation between socio-mental attitudes (ideology) and discursive

constructions. Asadi (2012), in his doctoral thesis studied 4 domestic newspapers of the opposite wings and showed that the ideology dominating the minds that reflect by special features such as personalization, activation and impersonalisation and so on. These features are also determined by power relations at the major level (i.e. society).

### **Theoretical Framework and Methodology**

The type of sampling in the present study is purposive sampling of headlines and political pages of the two newspapers related to two wings of reformists (E'temad) and fundamentalists (Keyhan), before and after beginning of the last round of nuclear talks which was simultaneous with the beginning of the presidential term of Hassan Rouhani.

The fundamental assumption in this theory is that the relation between form and content of discourse is not conventional, but it is determined by the cultural, social and political limitations of the power holder's institutions. So, the discourse analysis in critical linguistics framework means the analysis of the enriched constructions by an ideological load. Therefore, in terms of critical linguistics, answering the question "how the discourse meanings are formed", in fact is the answer to this question "how social meanings are formed synchronically and diachronically" (Aghagolzadeh, 2006).

CDA deals with clarification of the relation between discourse and social power, how the writings and speech of dominant groups and institutions abuse power and legitimize it. Here, the quantitative analysis means relying on statistical data percentage, which is at the service of deduction of qualitative analyses. So, in the present study, a combination of both qualitative and quantitative methods has been performed. This kind of analysis considers social

problems and studies concepts like social classes, gender, feminism, race, hegemony, benefits, justice and injustice.

This study has been done in a descriptive-analytic method. In qualitative research projects, the researcher can analyze the data and conclude those using discursive features and evaluating data and description, interpretation, exemplification simile, signification and so on, all of which are done through logic as well as by using data arrangement and the competitor's evidence in society and finding their relationship. One of the methods of qualitative analysis is considering a theory or framework in a special pattern which has acceptable principles. The analysis model in this study is Van Leeuwen's socio-semantic model (2008) which has a considerable adequacy in clarifying the present differences in representation methods of the participant actors in discourse. Leeuwen starts his work with socio-semantic features through which actors is represented (Leeuwen, 2008: 23).

Agency as a sociologic concept is of a great importance in the critical discourse analysis, it means that who is represented as agent, who as a patient with respect to a given action in Van Leeuwen's belief, because of the absence of a one-to-one relation between sociological and linguistic topic in agency representation. If we just focus on linguistic tools, many of the agency cases will be ignored. Of course, a considerable point is that in real discourses, choices are not always necessarily "this" or "that" and boundaries in order to access to special effects can be generally unspecified in representation of actors and for instance social correspondents can be both categorized and allocated some roles (Leeuwen, 2008: 24). As a matter of fact, each of the actors has been depicted in the

discourse into different categories, depending on the base and their linguistic context, especially social one, and also depending on power relations which is present between social actors.

The aforementioned features will be introduced in summary and in order to keep the standard extension of the paper. Here, the first three layers of the model have been mentioned and the sub branches of the socio-semantic features are omitted.

**-Exclusion**, as an important aspect of the critical discourse analysis, has two sub branches:

**a. Suppression**

In suppression, exclusion happens in a completely exaggerated way and the actor is not recoverable at all. It is represented in language through different ways: passive agent deletion, benefactor's deletion, nominalization and process noun, process realization as adjectives and nonfinite clause realization.

**b. Back grounding**

Realizations of back grounding are in the same way as suppression, but with respect to excluded social actors, they can be recovered through the mentioned way in the same clause or complex sentence.

**-Representation** of social actors in inclusive form has different methods that will be mentioned here.

The transitivity system in experimental way that allows analyzers of the critical discourse analysis perfectly show inequality and injustice in discourses by raising questions like: "[who is the actor]" and "what is he doing" and "who is the patient of his action". In this way, role allocation in Van Leeuwen's system contains active or passive given to the social actors and also all actions they participate in. These roles allocated in representation to actors, i.e. agent and

patient are done in two kinds of activation and passivation.

**a. Activation:** It has three sub branches i.e. participation, circumstantialization and possessivation in which, the social actor is introduced as a dynamic and active force. Active actors appear in objective processes as agent, in behavioral process as doer, in mental process as goal, in discursive process as addressee. When activation is performed, the active role of the social actors is foregrounded more apparently.

**b. Passivation** contains: subjection, beneficialization, participation, circumstantialization, possessivation and descriptive premodifiers. In passivation, the social actor bears the effect of an act and is depicted in a way that either accepts or absorbs it.

**-Reference allocation:** In each discourse, we can give animate or inanimate features to social actors, each of which has sub-categories mentioned below briefly.

**a. Personalization: in/determination**

In a condition that the actor is represented in animate form by using proper nouns, personal pronouns, etc., it will be located in personalization category. The specified actors in this part have no fixed and specific references. This way is used when the writer, by any reason, does not intend to introduce the actor.

Determination has also some sub-categories as association and dissociation, differentiation and in differentiation, nomination and categorization.

**b. Single Determination and Over determination**

In single determination, the social actor just participates in one social role and in over determination he simultaneously participates in more than one social activity.

*c. Impersonalization* has two sub-branches as abstraction and objectivation.

The socio-semantic feature of impersonalization is the opposite of personalization. In impersonalization social actors are represented with inanimate feature.

**-Type Allocation** also contains generalization and specification.

a. Generalization is the representation of social actors as levels and ordinary individuals.

b. Specification has two categories:

b.1. Individualization: When an actor is represented as an individual.

b.2. Assimilation and its types:

If actors shown by numbers, the aggregation has been done and if not, the feature will be considered as collectivation.

### **The Applied Discursive and Socio-Semantic Features and Analysis of Texts Reformists' Texts**

*1. Denis Ross, the former counselor of President Obama on Middle East affairs also advises in a report in New York Times to the Americans "talk to Rohani, but carefully".*

E'temaad newspaper, No. 2715, 2013/07/01:3

Activation of the actor and using individualization at the beginning of the text, nomination by using titulation in the next step to introduce "Denis Ross", utterance autonomization by referring to "a report" instrumentalization by indexing "New York Times", using plural form of "Americans" in order to identification, informal nomination of "Rohani" and passivation "him" by using "with" and locating him in the position of receiver of the result of the act. The generator of the mentioned text by referring to Obama's advice intends to show the American's fear

to talk to Iran which needs to be careful in this matter. The application of the adverb of "carefully" in terms of pragmatics can have three speech acts with itself: 1) Locutionary act: that means companion of the semantic meaning of this adverb is in line with thinking and manner of Rohani. 2) Illocutionary act: that is the message and indirect meaning and also the speaker intended meaning as well as the writer or the speaker's intended meaning based on the context of situation that in Iran the opposite discourse of Rohani i.e. fundamentalists do not tolerate this kind of discourse, which may have bad results for both Rohani and America. 3) Perlocutionary act: this kind of negotiation, considering the political atmosphere of competitor's discourses in present society of Iran have more effects on people and society and can be acceptable to them.

*2. Don't lose the hatred of America.*

E'temaad newspaper, No. 2429, 2012/06/27:

2  
Actor's suppression, back grounding of America by putting actor as an object in active sentence which has been appeared in a mental process as "goal" and also personalization of America in the subject position as a disgusting entity are counted as the applied features of the text. The generator of this text has shown "the hatred of America" as a chance. By locating the text in headline position, it tried to draw the readers' attention. Also, the representation of America has a completely hostile form. This kind of advice on its hidden angles declares that by passing the time and under the influence of different factors, the hatred of America has been forgotten that needs to be reminded and triggered continuously.

*3. Russians who are the host of the upcoming talks, criticized one-sided*

*sanctions of America against Iran, but at the same time, they have not supported 20% enrichment's right.*

E'temaad newspaper, No. 2421, 2012/06/17:3

Using the matization with the aim of foregrounding and showing the importance of Russia's hospitality in future talks. Also, with the application of nomination feature, the writer has prohibited usage of the actor's name in order not to be responsible about it. The differentiation of America and Iran and also activation of America in a discursive compound as "one-sided sanctions" and abstraction of "enrichment" as a "right", are of discursive features of the mentioned text. In the first step, the writer tries to show Russian's support of Iran as one of the greatest power in the world. Simultaneously, sanctions have been related to America. Finally, Iran's contentment of 20% enrichment that is under standard percentage, indirectly, asks Russia about its unclear position and it's not supporting of Iran's rights .

*4. The senior representative of America's government in nuclear talks to Iran, by hopefulness to the continuing procedure of nuclear talks with Iran added: "I have been completely persuaded that we can come to a compromise based on determined process and time.* E'temaad newspaper, No. 2931, 2014/04/09:1

Usage of individualization and appraisalment and functionalization of America's representative, passivation of Iran by using prepositional structure, using personal pronoun "I" , as individualization and using "we" in order to differentiate between "self" and "others" i.e. Iran. The writer of this text by using words with positive load like "hopefulness", "persuaded"

and "compromise" has shown a different literature and special position about America and its senior representative.

*5. In the past, we have been witness of American declarations about nuclear program and their verbalizations against Iran and Iranians.*

E'temaad newspaper, No. 2928, 2014/04/06:3

Usage of "we" and "their" shows differentiation feature and referring to "American declarations" can be considered as a kind of utterance autonomization. Nomination of "Americans" as collectivization, passivation of Iran and Iranians by circumstantialization with prepositional phrase "against Iran and Iranians" and association of "Iran" and "Iranians" by using linkage "and", are discursive features present in the text. The writer, at the beginning by using "we" versus "they" has represented the opposite position of these two countries. Simultaneously, by recalling past documents, tries to suggest that Americans have had numerous declarations none of which they have been faithful to and the writer calls declarations as "verbalization" that shows the far distance between their speech and practice. At the same time, using Iran beside Iranians shows the unity of Iranian people and their government. At the last part, by using "we are familiar to..." the writer has highlighted the cleverness and awareness of Iran against America's plots.

*6. In such a condition, American and Israeli radicals again whispered about using pressure against Iran.*

E'temaad newspaper, No. 2427, 2012/06/25:3

By using circumstantialization through prepositional phrase, American and Israeli radicals have been depicted. Also,

association of America with Israel by using linking word “and”, also Iran as object in an active sentence has played the role of patient has been passive. The text generator, by specification of adjective of “radical” to Israelis and Americans has tried to represent their illogical movement because seemingly they on and on have argued that the only solution to the nuclear problem of Iran is pressure that if they will not put Iran under pressure, their whispering can be considered as a threat.

*7. In spite of problem and doubt making of internal and American radicals, entrance of Iran to the diplomatic talks was not considered as defeat and surrender.*

E'temaad newspaper, No. 2930,  
2014/03/29:1

Passivation of “internal and American radicals” by the application of negation, backgrounding of the agent, assimilation of internal and external radicals and indifferentiation of them, backgrounding of Iran by using passive structure and deletion of agent in this clause and finally personalization of Iran as a war participant who has been neither surrendered nor defeated. In addition to using adjective of “radical”, the writer has introduced them as “problem and doubt makers”, who are not powerful. Because, they have been defeated and they have not meet their goal as the defeat of Iran in talks.

*8. This common accord and political epic work and public cooperation is a suitable chance for Westerns specially Americans to decrease their hostility and go to talk and cooperate with Iranian people.*

E'temaad newspaper, No. 2718,  
2013/07/04:1

Referring to “common accord”, “epic work” and “public cooperation” caused backgrounding the actor and it is not clear

that who the text is about. Activation of Westerns and America following it by circumstantialization with preposition and backgrounding Iranian people by locating it in subject position are features used in this text. The writer of this text, by advising that the talks “*a suitable chance*”, intends to remind the limitation of time which must be done as a priority in order to show that Iran does not need to this talks and in the other hand warned America that in case does not end hostility, there might be bad events happening in future.

*9. The reason of Obama's movement is that they count on such unfounded cases for application of more pressure on Islamic Republic.*

E'temaad newspaper, No. 2431,  
2012/06/30:3

Obama, as the president of America, is a proper noun who has been individualized. The activation of him in the position of actor in an active sentence should not be ignored. Differentiation of “self” and “others” by using pronoun “they”, passivation of Islamic Republic as the patient of effect and using collectivization instead of Iran are of the most prominent features used in this text. This text by a critique viewpoint to America has mentioned the reason of Obama's behavior depending on irrelevant and unfounded subject as a sorry excuse to intensify sanctions and putting Iran under more pressure.

*10. In recent days, American authorities as Vandy Sherman, American representative in 5+1 group, have talked about promising emotions.*

E'temaad newspaper, No. 2725,  
2013/07/13:3

Activation of “American authorities” in the position of grammatical subject, and also

usage of collectivization of them, i.e. representation of actors as a group, individualization of proper noun“ Vandy Sherman” and aggregation of “5+1” group and utterance autonomization by referring to authorities speech, are discursive features of this text. Referring to Vandy Sherman’s speech, as one of the participants in 5+1 group and also America’s representative, that is a main participant in nuclear talks, the writer has done a positive evaluation of talks’ processes .

### ***Fundamentalists’ Texts***

#### ***1. American government is optimist about nuclear talks with Iran.***

Keyhan newspaper, No. 20744, 2014/04/09:3 Activation of America by locating it in the position of actor in an active sentence and spatialization of Iran instead of Iran government and passivation of it, contain discursive features. The text generator, by using direct speech, and concluding and also by evaluation of all present conditions in talks possesses has anticipated a positive ending for nuclear talks from America’s viewpoint.

#### ***2. In case Israel decides to attack Iran, whether it needs America’s agreement?***

Keyhan newspaper, No. 20234, 2012/06/17:2 Personalization of Israel as an entity that has the ability of deciding as well as America as having the ability of agreement. Activation of Israel and America as actors that participate in attacking Iran is of discursive socio-semantic features of the present text. Based on this analysis, the rate of activation of America is less than Israel and Iran is the patient and affected by the attack which has been represented through subjection. In addition, a kind of indirect association between America and Israel resulting in dissociation from Iran can be found in the

text. The interrogative form of the text intentionally puts the judgment about the writer’s intended subject on the readers’ shoulder. Therefore, audiences based on their personal viewpoint, answer the question from different angles.

#### ***3. Many of customers like Japan and South Korea which are key confederates of America, decreased their import level of oil, but observing that it has no effect on nuclear policies of Tehran, they do not have the tendency to accompany in sanctions.***

Keyhan newspaper, No. 20461, 2013/04/07:2 Activation of customers by locating them in the position of subject of an active sentence, association of Japan and South Korea by using coordination, back grounding America in application of sanctions as a mediator not an agent in the position of grammatical subject, personalizing Japan and South Korea by using them as live entities who “do not have the tendency...” and finally, nomination of Tehran instead of Iran have been of discursive features used in the text. First of all, the writer of this text by using “many of customers” who the number of them is unclear has enlarged the subject. In the next step, by using a special description of “key confederates” to two samples of customers, has tried to state by the decreasing import level of oil, Iran should expect a mortal hit and in continue by admitting to ineffectiveness of this matter has depicted the power and independence of Iran and then has declared the retreatment of confederates and finally has represented America as passive actor in a hostile form.

#### ***4. A group of experts in Iran’s affairs in Wilson American thought Centre in a session settled the political situation of Iran.***

Keyhan newspaper, No. 20741, 2014/04/06:2

This text begins with “A group” represented by individualization then by using spatialization of Wilson’s “thought home” it has been continued. In order to avoiding the acceptance of responsibility of application of the experts in Iran’s affairs, it has been back grounded by using this socio-semantic feature. The writer, in an unbiased and neutral manner behind the text, intends to show the people who have not been introduced directly, instead of paying attention to their own country affairs, pay attention to Iran’s ones, which can be considered as intervention in other countries’ affairs.

*5. Some of clear-sighted people claim that America’s government has proposed its offers in a form which has no contradiction to desires of Israelis’ advocates lobbies.*

Keyhan newspaper, No. 20238, 2012/06/23:2 Unspecification by using “some” as indefinite pronoun, without using proper nouns and using collectivization of “clear-sighted people”, and back grounding Israel advocates by deletion of agent in passive clause are counted as socio-semantic features applied in this text. The generator of this text cautiously has not used the name and just has called them as “clear-sighted people” and he has only quoted their beliefs to show America’s government as an involuntary system that is at the service of Israelis’ lobbies. In fact, the writer has introduced Israel as a director behind talks and of the condition determiners which America is the obedient of its orders.

*6. Former American diplomats and experts in Iran’s affairs demanded the Obama government revise its policy about Iran.*

Keyhan, No.20527, 2013/06/27:3 Using collectivization “The former American diplomats” in the position of actor,

association of diplomats and experts by coordination, passivation of Obama government by circumstantialization with preposition, nomination of “Obama government” instead of America and also passivation of Iran. The analysis shows that this government is unable to make correct decisions about Iran, based on desired principles of experts and elites of this country. In fact, the text generator intends to show inefficiency of the Obama government, which others as former diplomats of this country and experts in Iran’s affairs affect Obama’s thoughts.

*7. Trampled wishes of America in the statement of the European Union*

Keyhan, No. 20740, 2014/04/05:1

Back grounding of the actor by using adjectival phrase, which first does not show who has trampled America’s wishes and then at the end, in a prepositional phrase, it has been cleared that the statement of the European Union does not meet their will, so the actor can be traced in this way. First of all, the writer by locating the text as headline has tried to draw readers’ attention that America by influencing the European Union has tried to impose its own goals and apply them against Iran indirectly. But, inasmuch as this plan has been ruined, the writer has called it as “trampled wishes”.

*8. This anxiety is rising that the increasing hostility between America and Russia over the Ukraine conflict has bad effects on Iran nuclear talks.*

Keyhan, No. 20743, 2014/04/08:2 Back grounding of the generator of the anxiety in the first sentence which can be traced in the second sentence, the recognition of dissociation has been possible

through semantic interpretation, in spite of using coordination. Usage of the adjective of “increasing”, here shows a hostile relationship between two countries from the past time over internal conflicts of Russia which can be considered as the intervention of America in this country’s affairs and breaking privacy of it. At the end, without introducing the source of rising anxiety which is considered as a public anxiety, this is imposed to the reader that this matter will affect the talks negatively.

*9. Washington intentionally wants the defeat of talks through which they want to show Iran as illogical and continue to apply more pressure.*

Keyhan newspaper, No. 20243, 2012/06/28:3 Spatialization of Washington as the representative of America, and passivation of Iran as a phenomenon in a mental process by using this actor as the subject of the second active sentence are of discursive features of this text. The text writer by using adverb of “intentionally” wants to show the negative purpose of America against Iran, which has not the tendency to compromise in the nuclear talks and in the next part by using an indirect act using discursive phrases as “illogical” which possesses a halo of negative meaning and also “apply more pressure” which has a word presupposition of ‘more” and an existential presupposition of “applying pressure” has motivated the reader to judge against America that not having done the talks’ result in recognition

of Iran as illogical, so pressures should be applied more than the past.

*10. North Korea also has tried to cooperate with America which encountered perjury and treachery of Washington.*

Keyhan newspaper, No. 20531, 2013/07/02:2 Personalization and activation of North Korea by bringing it in actor’s position and somehow association of it to America by using preposition “with”, and activation of Washington by using premodifiers are counted as manifest discursive features of this text. The writer of the text first by foregrounding North Korea in position of theme and also actor intends to show the importance of this country among other countries in this ground. At the end of the text, negative terms like “perjury” and “treachery” have been presented showing America as a treacherous entity that is not faithful to its promises.

Considering paper’s standard length, only some samples of analyses could be mentioned, although the volume of the data has been further and complete analyses exist in the researcher’s doctoral thesis. Here, the analysis of texts from the corpus study, based on different years, has been mentioned for each newspaper from two competitor wings. A little part of the analyses from two newspapers belonging to two competitor’s discourse, i.e. E’temad newspaper (reformists’ representative) and Keyhan (fundamentalists’ representative) have been brought.

N o	<b>E’temad Newspaper (Reformists’ Representative)</b>
--------	---

1	<p><i>The political wings in America support democrat Obama to put Iran under pressure.</i></p> <p>E'temad, No. 2421, 2012/06/17:3</p>
	<p>In this example, social actors as generators of political wings in America have been omitted or suppressed and the writer does not introduce the agents of the act, intentionally.</p>
2	<p><i>America's congress senators in an open letter asked the president of this country, in case Iran did not accept their condition, they leave the talks to be continued and impose severe sanctions on Iran.</i></p> <p>E'temaad newspaper, N. ۱۷:۳/۰۶/۲۰۱۲, ۲۴۲۱</p>
	<p>In the above mentioned example, by the matization America's congress, the role of this country's president has been back grounded and he has been located in the periphery. But, it is crystal clear that in most countries, a president is the first person, not senators.</p>
3	<p><i>For the first time, Iran and America after three decades had face-to-face talks and in this way the massive lock of nuclear talks became open.</i></p> <p>E'temaad newspaper, No. 29382014/04/17:3</p>
	<p>In this example, the active roles of America and Iran by participating in face-to-face talk have been clearly presented. The simile using of "opening lock" presents an amicable representation of America in this newspaper.</p>
4	<p><i>The subject that is not considerable is the counsellorship of America in the situation that Saudi Arabia is neither one side of the talks, nor the supporter of Iran's position in nuclear case.</i></p> <p>E'temaad newspaper, No. 2421, 2012/06/17:1</p>
	<p>This text is a sample in the study corpus in which Saudi Arabia has been passive. In other words, the writer with this type of actor imaging as the patient of negative process, foregrounds bad consequences of the action.</p>
5	<p><i>In the meantime, the silence of some countries about sanctions of the talks should be interpreted as the verification of America's positions.</i></p> <p>E'temaad newspaper, No. 2421, ۱۹:۳/۰۷/۲۰۱۲</p>
	<p>Here, the writer does not consider the exact introduction of the mentioned countries necessarily. Although the readers may</p>

	consider special interpretations. In fact their action, i.e. verification of America’s situation is important and the writer shows his disagreement with this action. In addition, by this approach, the responsibility of their introduction will be removed from the writer’s shoulders.
--	--

N o	Keyhan Newspaper(fundamentalists’ Representative)
1	<p><i>This kind of amateurish actions reveals the inefficiency of America’s attendants not only is an action contrary to related worldwide conventions and breaks many of international laws, specially specialized agreements in supporting military airplanes and ships and people in hostile relations, but also shows the critical feeling of American militaries and their fear.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">E’temad newspaper, No. 2447, 2012/07/19:1</p>
	<p>The above mentioned example is about over etemination and America has been represented in a hostile style, by using words like “amateurish”, “inefficiency”, “contrary to”, “breaking laws”, “hostile relations”, “the critical feeling” and “fear”.</p>
2	<p><i>This spectrum jumped for talking to America and used the literature such as taboo breaking and talked about the depletion of Islamic Republic of an ideological background in fighting with the arrogant powers.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Keyhan newspaper, No. 20744, 2014/04/09:2.</p>
	<p>The application of “spectrum” causes the representation of social actors by an inanimate feature. Also the representation of America cannot be considered as an amicable one.</p>
3	<p><i>The reaction of Ulema and scientists to the European anti Iranian statement</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Keyhan, 20740, 2014/04/02: 1.</p>
	<p>Genericization, in the above example is the representation of social actors (Ulema &amp; Scientists) as levels and ordinary individuals.</p>
4	<p><i>Example: Sergei Ryabkov, the deputy foreign minister of the Russian federation and the representative of Russia in nuclear</i></p>

	<p><i>talks between Iran and 5+1, implicationally said that Russia may link problems of Iran and Ukraine.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Keyhan, 20743, 2014/04/08: 2.</p>
	<p>Individualization here is shown in the way which actor is represented as an individual.</p>
5	<p><i>That many of the union’s representatives legitimate condition or conditions to develop relations with Iran only and only means that they have come to this scenario under pressure and management of America.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Keyhan, 20740, 2014/03/30: 1.</p>
	<p>Social actors are shown by numbers, so, the aggregation has been done. If not, the feature will be considered as collectivization.</p>

**Discussion and Conclusion**

This study applying Van Leeuwen’s socio-semantic model of social actors (2008), has analyzed the texts of the two newspapers belonging to two competitors’ political wings of Persian press i.e. E’temad and Keyhan, before and after the last round of nuclear talks between Iran and 5+1 group, which was simultaneous with presidential tenure of Hassan Rouhani, from the perspective of critical discourse analysis approach. Based on the acquired information of this study in different periods of time, distinguished that the texts of both newspapers during three consecutive years i.e. 2012, 2013 and 2014, have reflected their ideologies with the application of some features. The results of the data reveal that socio-semantic features such as activation, passivation, exclusion, etc., are mostly reflected using linguistic features in the texts. So, in response to the research question (How is the linguistic realization of the discursive structures performed in

the given texts?), this answer should be given that the linguistic realization of discursive structures in the texts is performed using linguistic structures such as active or passive, use of nominalization, coordination, accompaniment, circumstantial, quantifier, pre-modifier, etc. An important point about the relationship between socio-semantic features, and linguistic features, is that all socio-semantic features do not necessarily have overt realizations. For example, the differentiation features in the present study did not have any formal linguistic realizations, but it can be semantically perceived of the whole text. By the extraction of discursive socio-semantic features and by studying linguistic structures in the corpus study, i.e. Persian language press, it has been perceived that the ideology dominating on the minds of the writers belonging to two competitor political wings, has been reflected in the texts by using discursive socio-semantic features like activation, back grounding, personalization,

impersonalization, differentiation and in differentiation etc. and it seems Van Leeuwen's socio-semantic model of social actors (2008), has distinguished this subject in mentioned press very well inasmuch as existence of a bilateral relation between

discursive features and ideology, through which the ideology behind discourse as well as the ideology dominating the writers' minds can be perceived.

## References

- [1] Aghagolzadeh, Ferdows, (2004). "Analysis Methodology in Critical Discourse Analysis". Articles' collection of 6<sup>th</sup> conference of Linguistics, Tehran: Literature & Foreign Language Faculty of AllamehTabatabaie University
- [2]Aghagolzadeh, F. & Kheirabadi, R., (2008). A Linguistic Study of News Values in Iranian Press. *The International Journal of Humanities of the Islamic Republic of Iran* 15, 1-7.
- [3] \_\_\_\_\_ (2006). *Critical Discourse Analysis*. Tehran: Farhang e goftman press.
- [4] \_\_\_\_\_ (2010). *Radio Discourse Analysis, based on Linguistic Theories and Strategies*. Tehran: Tarh e Ayandeh.
- [5] \_\_\_\_\_ (2012). "Description and Clarification of Ideological Linguistic Structures in Critical Discourse Analysis", *Linguistic and Comparative Literature Studies*, No.2, TarbiatModares University.
- [6] Amal Saleh, E. (2004). "The Representation of Social Actors in the EFL Textbooks in Iran". Unpublished PhD. Dissertation, Shiraz University, Shiraz.
- [7] Asadi, M., (2012). "The Relationship between Discursive Structures and Ideology in Press Texts". Doctoral Thesis.
- [8] Dabir Moghaddam, M (2004). *Theoretical Linguistics*. Tehran: SAMT Press.
- [9] Fairclough, N. & R. Wodak, (1997). "Critical Discourse Analysis", in: T. Van Dijk (Ed.). *Discourse as Social Interaction*, 258-284, sage.
- [10] Halliday, M.A.K. & G. Kress, (1979). *Language as Ideology*. London: Routledge.
- [11] Kress, G. and R. Hodge, (1979). *Language as Ideology*. London: Routledge.
- [12] Kress, G. & T. Van Leeuwen, (2001). *Multimodal Discourse – the Modes and Media of Contemporary Communication*. London: Arnold.
- [13] Laclau, E. & C. Mouffe, (1985). *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy: Towards a Radical Democratic Politics*. London: Verso.
- [14] Namjoo, P., (2003). "The Way Discursive Ideological Structures are related in two sets of Speeches on Terrorism". MA. Thesis, Shiraz University, Shiraz.
- [15] Renkema, J., (2004). *Introduction to Discourse Studies*. Philadelphia, PA, USA: John Benjamins publishing Company.
- [16] Schiffrin, Deborah, (1994), *Approaches to Discourse*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- [17] Seif, L., (2004), "A Cross Cultural Investigation of the Representation of Social Actors in different Persian, British and American Discourses". MA. Thesis, Islamic Azad University, Shiraz.
- [18] Soltani, A., (2005). *Power, Discourse and Language*. Tehran: Nei press.
- [19] Yarmohammadi,L., (2004). *Relations from the Critical Discourse Analysis Perspective*. Tehran: Hermes.
- [20] Van Dijk, T. A., (1988), *News as Discourses*. NewJersey: Lawrence.
- [21] Van Leeuwen, T. A., (1993). "Genre and Field in CDA". *Discourse and Society*, Vol. 4, No. 2, Pp.193-225.
- [22] \_\_\_\_\_ (1996). "The Representation of Social Actors", in Coldas- Coulthard, C. R. & Coulthard, M. (eds.), *Text and Practices, Reading in CDA*. London: Routledge.
- [23] \_\_\_\_\_ (2008). *Discourse & Practice: New Tools for Critical Discourse Analysis*. London: Routledge.

## تحلیل مقابله‌ای متون مطبوعاتی اصلاح‌طلبان و اصولگرایان در رابطه با آمریکا در گفتمان مذاکرات هسته‌ای

(رویکرد تحلیل گفتمان انتقادی، مدل اجتماعی - معنایی کنش‌گران اجتماعی ون لیوون ۲۰۰۸)

شیرین گوهری<sup>۱</sup>، فردوس آقاگل‌زاده<sup>۲</sup>، حیات عامری<sup>۳</sup>

تاریخ پذیرش: ۱۳۹۶/۹/۱۰

تاریخ دریافت: ۱۳۹۶/۲/۱۷

### چکیده

در مقاله حاضر تحلیل مقابله‌ای میان متون مطبوعاتی اصلاح‌طلبان و اصولگرایان در ارتباط با آمریکا در مذاکرات هسته‌ای در بازه زمانی خاص یعنی قبل و پس از آغاز دور نهایی مذاکرات هسته‌ای میان جمهوری اسلامی ایران و گروه ۵+۱ انجام شده است، که دو روزنامه با دو گفتمان متقابل از منظر تحلیل گفتمان انتقادی با بهره‌گیری از مؤلفه‌های اجتماعی - معنایی مدل ۲۰۰۸ ون لیوون مورد بررسی قرار گرفتند. این پژوهش فراتر از مطالعه و ساختار توصیفی گفتمانی عمل کرده و راه‌هایی که از طریق آن ساختار معنایی نوع خاصی از کنش‌ها را ممکن ساخته، می‌آزماید. بدین منظور منتخبی از متون گفتمانی از دو روزنامه فارسی زبان متعلق به دو گروه گفتمانی رقیب یعنی اعتماد به‌عنوان نماینده اصلاح‌طلبان و کیهان به‌عنوان نماینده اصولگرایان از نظر کمی و کیفی بررسی شده‌اند. نتیجه اینکه ایدئولوژی‌های متقابل که بر اذهان نویسندگان دو گروه سیاسی مسلط هستند در درون متون انعکاس یافته و همچنین تحلیل آماری مشخص کرد که مؤلفه‌های اجتماعی - معنایی به‌واسطه ایدئولوژی‌های مختلف و مرتبط با روابط قدرت تعیین می‌گردند. به دیگر سخن زبان و گفتمان در لایه‌های زیرین تحت تاثیر ایدئولوژی روابط قدرت و سلطه و در لایه‌های سطحی تحت تاثیر مؤلفه‌ها و ساختارهای گفتمانی قرار دارند.

واژه‌های کلیدی: تجزیه و تحلیل گفتمان انتقادی، اصلاح‌طلبان، اصولگرایان، مذاکرات هسته‌ای.

۱. دانشجوی دکتری زبان‌شناسی دانشگاه آزاد اسلامی واحد علوم و تحقیقات تهران، تهران، ایران.

۲. استاد زبان‌شناسی دانشگاه تربیت مدرس، تهران، ایران ferdows@yahoocom (نویسنده مسئول).

۳. استادیار زبان‌شناسی دانشگاه تربیت مدرس، تهران، ایران.